

Yosemite

May 14 – 18, 2024

Led By: Anne Rogalski, Mara Prausa
and Tim Zeszutek



Continuing Education
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point





An Itinerary for Yosemite 2024 **May 14 – 18, 2024**

Join us to explore and experience the beauty of Yosemite National Park! See amazing sights such as a treasure trove of giant sequoia trees, beautiful waterfalls, towering rock faces, and some of the most incredible examples of natural beauty in the world. By van and by foot, learn about the park's geology, flora, and fauna.

Trip Leaders: Anne Rogalski, Mara Prausa, Tim Zeszutek



Tuesday, May 14, 2024

- Our group meets early at UWSP to board vans headed to Minneapolis.
- The flight out of Minneapolis St. Paul International/Wold-Chamberlain Airport will take the group to Denver International Airport; the second flight will land at Fresno Yosemite International Airport.
- After landing, the group will board vans and head to [**Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite**](#) to check in, explore the resort, and prepare for the next three days.

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

- Meet our [Yosemite Conservancy](#) naturalists at [Mariposa Grove Welcome Plaza](#).
 - At the Mariposa Grove parking lot, there is a shuttle bus that will take the group two miles up the paved road to the Lower Grove. However, it is possible the shuttle will not be running yet and therefore the group would need to walk. The walk has about 600 feet of elevation gain. While in the Lower Grove, it is another mile walk to the Grizzly Giant for those who are interested.
- The group will then have the option to enjoy a hot sit-down lunch at the historic Wawona Hotel or have their carry-in lunch on the trail.
- Next, we will continue to the [Yosemite History Center](#) for a walk-through time in Wawona.
 - This half of the day will be focused on the rich cultural history in this area. There is a covered bridge and numerous historic buildings that have been brought there from all over the park. Also, there is a newly created Chinese Laundry exhibit.

Thursday, May 16, 2024

- Meet our Yosemite Conservancy Naturalists at Yosemite Valley Lodge Amphitheater.
- Our group will split in half, going in different directions to [Cooks Meadow](#) and [Lower Yosemite Falls](#).
- The groups will then return to Yosemite Valley Lodge Amphitheater at 12pm for lunch at the Base Camp Eatery or eat their carry-in lunch.
- Next, we will walk from Yosemite Valley Lodge to El Captain Meadow. This is a beautiful flat trail that is 3-4 miles. We can also drive those who would prefer to skip this trail.

Once the group comes back together, our naturalists will do a History of Climbing program with the entire group in the meadow while gazing up at the monolith.



Friday, May 17, 2024

- Meet our Yosemite Conservancy Naturalists at the Ahwahnee Hotel.
- We will walk together to **Mirror Lake** and **Tenaya Canyon**, on a paved bike path which is about 1 mile to Mirror Lake from the Ahwahnee Hotel. At Mirror Lake, the group can split into two with one naturalist doing a shorter distance and the other doing the whole 5-mile loop taking the entire day.
 - At Mirror Lake we are under Half Dome, North Dome, Basket Dome, and Mt. Watkins, all while peeking into Tenaya Canyon. Tenaya Creek runs straight through the middle of this loop. The trail is rich in trees, woody shrubs, birds, and sometimes even wildflowers and wildlife!
- Our group will bring lunches to have on the trail (the group will be responsible for their own lunches).
- These hikes could take the entire day, or if we choose, we can walk the **Happy Isles Loop** or the **Valley Loop Trail** to make a circle back to the Ahwahnee Hotel.

Saturday, May 18, 2024

- After breakfast we will depart from Tenaya Lodge.
- If time allows we will try to get a hike in before we leave.
- Early afternoon we will check in at Fresno Yosemite International Airport.
- Our first flight will take us to Denver International Airport.
- A second flight will take us to Minneapolis St. Paul International/Wold-Chamberlain Airport.
- After landing, vans will take the group back to Stevens Point.

Your Trip Leaders



Anne Rogalski, UWSP CE Associate Director, has hosted several trips for Continuing Education, including New York, New Orleans, Savannah, Yosemite, Acadia, and Iceland. This will be her third time leading a trip to Yosemite. In other positions, she has led trips to Europe. When not working, Anne can be found hiking with her husband and dogs; in 2022 she became an official Thousand Miler after completing the Ice Age Trail.



Mara Prausa, UWSP Continuing Education Program Manager, enjoys traveling with family, friends and UWSP Adventure Tours. She loves being active outdoors with her two children, husband, and black lab. Some of her favorite travel experiences have included ziplining and whitewater rafting in Costa Rica, kayaking in the Apostle Islands, skiing in Colorado, horseback riding in Montana, and beaching on Sanibel Island.



Tim Zeszutek, UWSP CE Marketing Specialist, has traveled across the country for backpacking and camping trips. His favorite places that he has traveled to are overseas to England and to all the ancient sites in Greece. He is excited to begin to lead trips for Continuing Education!

Pricing

Registration Fee

Double occupancy rates: **\$3,198 per person**

Single occupancy rates: **\$4,818**

***Registration closes February 13, 2024 at noon!**

Payment Schedule:

\$450 non refundable deposit due at registration

\$1,374 due by **Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

\$1,374 due by **Wednesday, March 13, 2024**

*Since we make financial commitments in advance, no refunds will be issued for cancellations 90 days or less prior to the trip. Cancellations received in writing more than 90 days before the trip will receive a full refund minus \$450. However, you may send a substitute in your place. Please email us at uwspceweb@uwsp.edu to inform us of a cancellation or substitution.

Important Notes

- Traveling for this trip requires some frequent walking. Walking several miles (five to six) in a day is common.
- Travelers under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Travelers may wish to explore purchasing **traveler's insurance**. UW-Stevens Point Continuing Education does not provide travel insurance, medical, or emergency evacuation and thus you are 100% responsible for these expenses. UW-Stevens Point Continuing Education cannot recommend any particular company.

Information on the Tour

What to bring

- Snacks, reusable water containers, backpacks, comfortable hiking boots/shoes, sun protection (hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen) clothing layers, rain gear, and swimsuit.

Lodging:

Our group will stay in Tenaya Lodge premium patio rooms, complete with 2 queen beds, work desk with computer data port, WIFI, mini fridge and Keurig, cable TV and movies on demand, AM/FM clock radio, telephone in-room safe, iron and ironing board, blow dryer, climate control, and scenic patio with seating.

Transportation:

Transportation includes pick up and drop off from UWSP parking lot to every destination.

Activities:

The activities mostly include hiking five to six miles a day.

Included in price:

- All lodging in double queen premium patio rooms with private bathrooms.
- Breakfast each morning in the hotel.
- All activities listed in itinerary.

Not included in price:

- Lunches and dinners (both can be purchased at Tenaya Lodge).
- Extra purchases (such as souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, snacks, etc.).
- Travel insurance.
- Tips for Yosemite Conservancy Naturalists (optional).

